

THE POINT

THE FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE STUDENT JOURNAL

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Week of March 28



IRRELEVANT COVER ART

MORE IRRELEVANT ART ON PAGE 5

Letter to the Editor: COVERAGE

Sitting in the corner of the hallway, it is regarded as a waste by passers-by. A bland and unappetizing appearance hides the wealth of information hidden beneath its façade. Thought of with a smirk, most students are unaware of the potential it holds. It is "The Point."

A school paper is a service to the student body, not necessarily a forum for literary works. While the product put out is well done, it does not resemble what is required of a school newspaper. The job of a campus newspaper is to inform the student body and bolster school spirit.

It has been transformed from medium intended for a mass audience, into a high-brow publication that many on the campus feel is dry and boring. While the paper has some well-written articles, students disregard them due to the overall lack of attractive formatting.

Leading the list of issues I find with the paper is the front page. A newspaper's front page is supposed to draw the reader in and hook their attention. Having an artistic piece on the cover of a person a large majority of the students could not recognize in no way accomplishes that goal. It does nothing to inspire the reader to dig deeper. I feel that is a discredit to the writers who contribute their time and effort into creating a piece.

The most recent paper had only one picture of a FSC student and no human-interest story on a campus of over 4,000 students. Most students cannot relate to the publication, which makes them reluctant to pick up a copy. Valuable information put out by the school and other organizations that rely on the paper for communicating with the students, is being missed due to lack of interest.

The Point is not poor by any means, but it doesn't perform the function that a campus paper was intended. That function is to be the voice and record of the FSC students. I sure this comes off as a negative, but I just want to see The Point be as influential as other school papers. As of now, it is not even close.

David Claffey

Mr. Claffey, so nice to finally hear from you. I think it's super that you finally decided to follow through on the interest you showed earlier this semester, I only wish you had chosen to write something of substance, but c'est la vie.

For the most part, your letter is accurate. However, there are one or two things I'd like to discuss. Your use of the term high brow bothers me. Are you implying that the paper has become too cultured? Are you saying that you think that the students aren't "getting it?" Or are you insinuating that the students aren't smart enough to get it?

After all, I was in a class the other day and the teacher brought up Stephen Hawking. Only a handful of the class knew who he was and of those that did, a few only knew of him from his cameo on The Simpsons. So maybe if I had put the brief shot of Dali that appeared in a Simpsons episode that would have been all right. The cover would have been eye-catching and the students would then go for it like a parakeet to a mirror.

Forgive me for being so obtuse, I guess I just expected more from a "leadership college." I guess I'm just not as cynical as you and still have faith that the students who go to FSC aren't just here to (as the old song says) "major in business and be taught how to fuck."

Maybe I'm just being a wistful optimist, but isn't the point of going to college to get an education; to actually learn something. If all a person wants is a degree, Sally Struthers has a number to call. I don't know about you, but I personally feel everything in society does not need to appeal to the lowest common denominator.

Another question: by literary works do you mean works of fiction? If so, I hate to do it, but must point out that you are incorrect. The Point does not publish fiction and in fact, we have had to turn away several very good

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Pantalunacy

by Spanky McTitwhistle

There is a growing tide of discontent in this country. For too long there has been a group of people forced to accept certain conditions under which they live. Bound, confined, and pressed against their will. Well no longer. The time has come for change. The time has come for revolution. The time has come for liberation, for the problem to be exposed.

Men, we as a gender must rise up *en masse* and proclaim with fierce dignity: WE WILL NO LONGER SUFFER UNDER THE TYRANNY OF PANTS!!!

Why is it that the gender with the external genitalia has to wear pants? Women have the best of both worlds they can wear either pants or skirts as the mood suits them (no pun intended); but try that if you're a

guy. Unless you're Scottish, you'll be fired from your job, thrown out of your apartment and dumped by your girl. Ahhh, but my brothers it is a small price to pay for the cool feeling of hanging free. And if the day is windy and you're sitting just right...

Although there are scholars who would argue that pants were the invention of alien intelligences, presented to humanity along with the pyramids, the tradition of pants actually has its origins in the hose of Renaissance Italy. However, these garments also had codpieces that acted as a cushioned pouch for the family jewels. Modern pants have no such equivalent, leaving us with a nasty seam to contend with.

But not for long. We must take action. You must take action. Right

Continued on page 11

Con-

THE POINT

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Spanky McTitwhistle

Ben Reed

Biff Tanner

The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of The Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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THIS MODERN WORLD

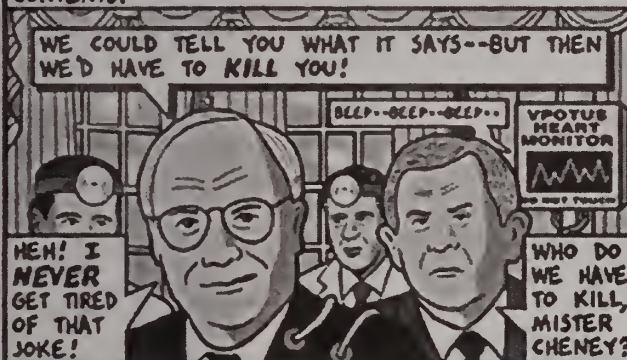
by TOM TOMORROW

FOR FIVE DAYS IN APRIL, MUCH OF QUÉBEC CITY WILL BE BLOCKED OFF BEHIND A TWO AND A HALF MILE LONG, TEN FOOT HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE, BEYOND WHICH NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT PROPER CREDENTIALS.



SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY BLINKY THE VERY NICE DOG!

BEHIND THAT FENCE, LEADERS FROM 34 COUNTRIES WILL CONVEENE TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED **FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERIKAS**, A PLAN TO EXPAND NAFTA TO MOST OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THE DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, AND ITS MAJOR SIGNATORIES REFUSE TO DISCUSS ITS CONTENTS.



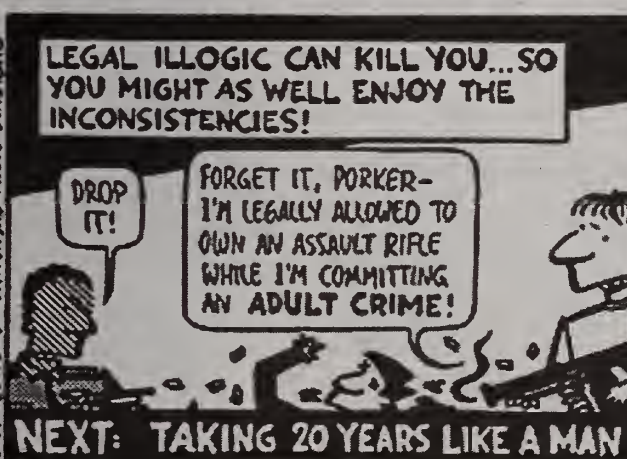
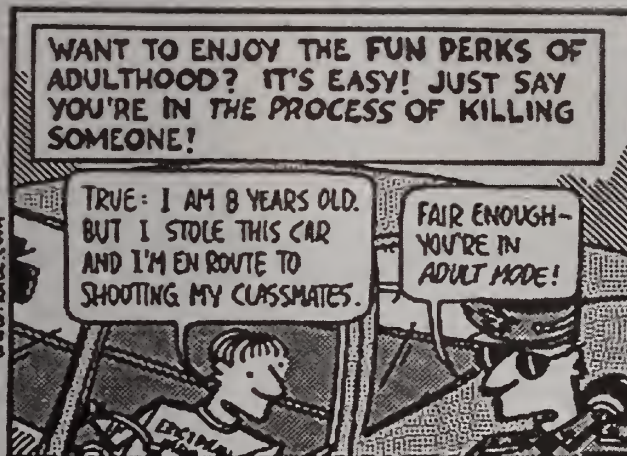
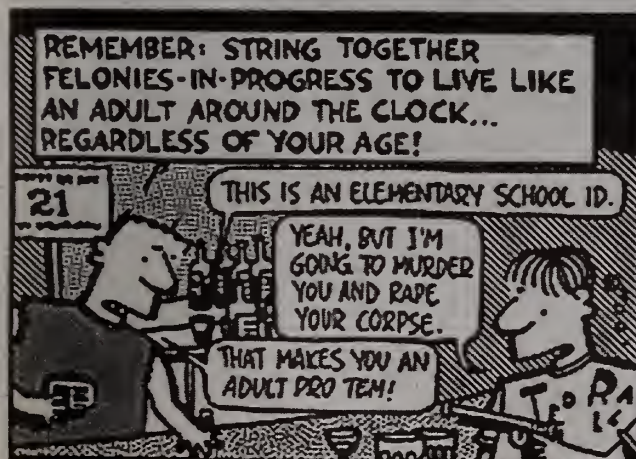
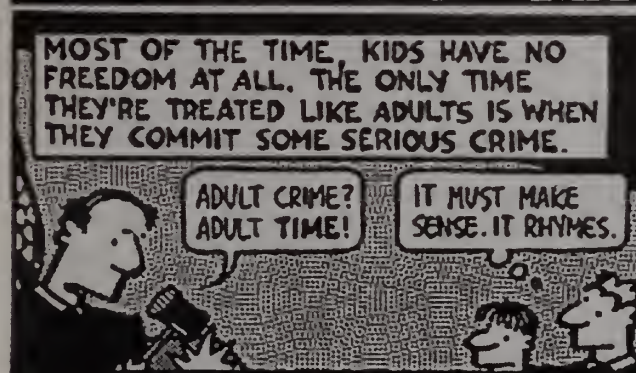
THE W.T.O. MEANWHILE, IS MAKING PLANS TO HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING IN THE EMIRATE OF QATAR--AN ISOLATED COUNTRY WITH NO INCONVENIENT FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY OR RIGHT TO DISSENT.



IN SHORT, THE IMPORTANT BUSINESS OF GLOBALIZATION WILL MOST CERTAINLY NOT BE DISRUPTED BY ANY OF THOSE PESKY DEMONSTRATORS THIS TIME AROUND...



FOR KIDS' EYES ONLY



NEXT: TAKING 20 YEARS LIKE A MAN

reminders

Student Health Services reminds all full time students that you need to have complete medical files on record with our office before registration to avoid a hold being placed on your account. With this hold, you will be unable to register for fall classes. If you have any question as to whether your record is complete or not, please call Health Services at 3216 or stop by our office in the Anthony Building. Thank you for your cooperation with this state and college requirement.

* * * * *

The Seats Available List for all undergraduate day courses for Fall Semester 2001 is now available exclusively on the World Wide Web. Students will no longer receive Seats Available Lists in their mailboxes. Please go to www.fsc.edu/~registrar/ beginning next week to see what courses are being offered this fall! If you do not have access to the World Wide Web you may contact the Office of the Registrar.

Survey shows accidents often lead to injuries

by Biff Tanner

After a quiet dinner with her loving husband and dutiful children, Mrs Louise Marchand of Akron, OH was doing dishes. Little did she know that lying in wait beneath the soapy water was a sharp stainless steel steak knife. As she reaches for a plate, she feels a sudden pain. The knife has severed through her dermis and several subdermal layers, what is known in the medical circles as a "cut". Although the cut she received was minor, reports indicate that if the cut had been more serious, the injury could have been a lot worse.

This is just one example of a recent trend in this country towards accidents. Although not every accident causes an injury, scientific research has determined that accidents are the leading cause of personal injuries, surpassing failed suicide attempts and participatory bondage incidents. Something must be done; especially to protect our children.

Dr. Reid Flummox of the Institute of Flailing Wildly Before Tipping Over has been studying the problem for over a decade. His research has determined that people get into accidents against their will and, for the most part, without warning. These accidents can occur while a person is walking, driving, pursuing leisure activities or even at work. According to Dr. Flummox, "There is just no way to predict when or how accidents will occur." For all his years of study, he is still no closer to determining a pattern to these mishaps. However, one thing is certain, according to Dr. Flummox, "Accidents will happen."

Not everyone in the medical community considers themselves helpless before this onslaught of calamity. Professor Bertrand Parker is the organizer and founder of OOPSIE! The Organization Of People Seeking Indemnity through Evasion. After losing a leg in a bizarre fondue incident, Parker dedicated his life to finding the causes of accidents and, hopefully, preventing their occurrence.

As part of his long term program, he discovered a group of like-minded individuals and formed OOPSIE! This group, after years of painstaking research and experimentation has developed four simple guidelines for people seeking to prevent accidents:

1 - Avoid situations in which accidents might occur. This includes all occupations as places of employment have been shown to be where most work related accidents occur.

2 - Avoid cooking or preparing food in any fashion. Apart from the potential for burns and cuts, this will prevent accidental poisonings as well. Professor Parker recommends eating only dried figs, cold cereal and water straight from the tap.

3 - Accident proof your home. Remove all potentially dangerous objects which could be involved in an accidental injury. This includes chairs, tables, beds and most other furniture, carpeting, all electrical appliances and fixtures such as doors and windows.

4 - Avoid activity that might lead to accidents. Do not attempt to travel as the statistics on transportation accidents are frightening in the extreme. Do not engage in recreational activities because people have been injured doing everything before. Do not leave your accident-proof home, because no one will be as safety conscious as you. After all it's a big scary world out there, filled with uncertainty and places you've never seen, food you've never tried and things you've never done before. Why take the chance and risk a potentially painful accident of some sort? Stay home and watch the news and other reality based shows.

Internal Explorations

by Sharlene Gugarty

"They had me on a luge the first weekend I was there. It was one of the best rushes in the world!"

Are these the words of an Olympic athlete? Are they the words of some alpine daredevil? No, these are the words of Jim Vigeant, FSC senior and marketing intern with the U.S.A. Luge Association.

An Oxford native, Jim is spending this semester at the York International Training Complex in Lake Placid, New York. Jim is a Technical Writing major who is working in conjunction with Verizon doing, as he says, "a little of everything. I've done voice-over announcements for the U.S.A. Luge hotline, taken photos and written press releases." Verizon, a sponsor for U.S.A. Luge since 1985 also sponsors the Luge Challenge to recruit children for the Junior Development Team of U.S.A. Luge.

Jim shares his quarters with two other interns, one pursuing a career in sports medicine, and the other a strength training and conditioning intern. Currently, the team is preparing for the upcoming winter Olympics in Salt Lake City and other international events, so the training center is a very busy place. How did Jim get an internship in Lake Placid? "I basically walked into [my advisor's] office and he asked me how attached I was to staying in this area," grins Jim. Enjoying his first weekend back on campus recently, Jim said the experience has been a great help to him in deciding what he wants to focus on in his job hunting after graduation.

Not everyone can intern with an Olympic team, but there are internships available in many types of businesses both locally and nationally. The English Department currently has interns doing publicity for the Fitchburg Art Museum and writing news briefs for WTAG in Worcester.

Exercise and Sports Science interns work in various fitness clubs as personal trainers and exercise instructors. Some interns are employed at public and private schools doing strength training and conditioning with athletic teams. In the past, there have been internships available on campus with FSC sports teams.

There are FSC interns at work this semester at WCVB-TV5, Boston Magazine, Miramax Films in New York and Universal Pictures in Los Angeles. In the past, FSC interns have worked in public relations positions in London and Washington, D.C. There have also been interns at Channel 7, Channel 56 and The Atlantic Monthly.

Career Services, located on the third floor of the Hammond Building, maintains books listing internship opportunities that include not only present openings, but past placements as well. "If someone wanted an intern a year or so ago, chances are they'll be looking for interns again. These books are a wonderful resource," said Joan Perkins, department secretary.

It is not too early to arrange an internship for the summer or for next semester. Eric Mello, a Comm/Film student recently met with The Gage Group, a casting agency in NYC. He hopes to intern during the day to learn the casting process while spending his free time auditioning and possibly doing PA work with Comedy Central. Eric, who has been seen in many Falcon Player productions including "Drop Dead" is also an accomplished film maker, having had a production showcased as part of the AmeriCulture Arts Festival.

He is excited about the prospect of working in New York, in spite of the unpaid nature of the internship. The experience to be gained is priceless. To find an internship that's right for you, check with your department's internship coordinator. You never know where it will take you.

APRIL FOOLS!

This is the second annual April Fool's Day issue of the Fitchburg State College Student Journal. If you take everything within it's pages seriously, you will be a very confused camper indeed. That is not to say that there are not serious articles here, but you must determine what to believe as truth and what to disregard as the ravings of deranged wankers. In this regard, it's alot like politics. You have been warned, proceed with caution. Fnord.

No foolin'

Back in the Middle Ages, people celebrated the new year with the advent of Spring. Usually the festival season started on March 25, and continued until April 1.

In 1564, when the calendar was reformed reformed and became Gregorian, King Charles IX proclaimed that New Year's Day should be celebrated on January 1, the start of the new "calendar" year, instead of in the spring.

Some resisted the change and continued to celebrate the new year in the spring. During this period of spring festivity, the more "modern" Europeans mocked the (mostly non-Christian) revelers by sending them foolish gifts and invitations to non-existent parties.

The victim of an April Fools' Day prank was called a "poisson d'avril," or an "April fish," because at that time of year, the sun was leaving the zodiacal sign of Pisces.

April Fools' Day hit its stride in England in the 18th century, and was brought to colonial America by the English, Scottish and French.

NO EXIT

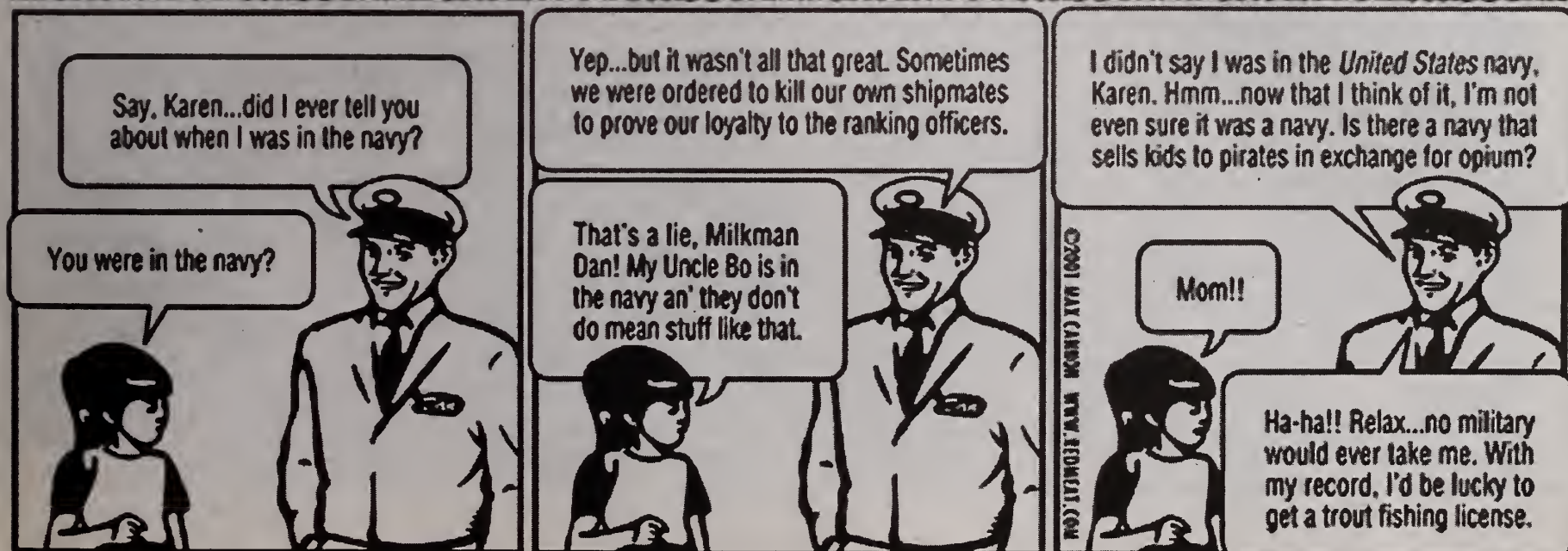
© Andy Singer



RED MEAT

scented aspirin for perfume headaches

from the secret files of
Max Cannon



THE WIRE

by DefScribe

Listen up Fitchburg State; I know my first installment gave all sorts of information about events that have already happened, but I had no control over my triumphant debut and its unfortunate late release. That question must be left to the editors; they deal with this sort of thing all the time.

So, to make things right, I would like to reintroduce myself and what I am about. I am the DefScribe and this is my column "The Wire". "The Wire" is intended to be a place where students can get caught up on what is happening on or around Fitchburg State College. Happenings, gatherings, ho-downs, throw-downs or places to slow down, you name it, and it has a place here. With that said, here is what is new coming down the "The Wire."

First and foremost, I would like to mention a very special production being put on starting on the fourth of April. The Drunkard (not the life story of Ted Kennedy as some would assume) will be premiering April 4 in Percival Auditorium and will be running for eight performances. For more information call the school info desk.

In more theatre news, Dr. Kelly Morgan is looking for ambitious and motivated students to participate in this year's Americulture Arts Festival. Actors, set designers, production assistants, box office staff, if these positions sound interesting to you then hold on just a second. Course credit can be earned for participation and connections are proven to be made at events like this, so don't miss it. Contact Dr. Morgan at Kmorgan@FSC.edu for details.

On a side note, falling into the category of strange and bizarre news that actually makes you glad that you go to Fitchburg, it seems an outbreak of sorts has occurred recently on the Framingham State College

campus. The outbreak was a particularly unpleasant outbreak of Bilabial Defecation. I will respectfully leave the unpleasant specifics of its outbreak up to the reader's imagination. It's funnier that way.

I digress. Moving along, it seems that coming up at the Wallace Civic center on April 7. *Wish Upon a Star*, presented by Fitchburg's own Muck Crew promises to be an all night extravaganza of electronic talent not normally found this close to home. The likes of Donald Glaude, Dieselboy, Christopher Lawrence, and Mistress Barbara are the foundation of this phenomenal event by a group of hometown hustlas. Show some support, tickets can be purchased during Civic center box-office hours.

For the less adventurous clubbers out there don't forget to check out Club Liquid, downtown Leominster. For those at home in Southern Worcester County, Jack's Saloon, located on the corner of Rt.122 and Rt.16 in Uxbridge is spinning tunes every Saturday with DJ Vapor, and no cover. Tuesday nights at the Living Room in Providence are still home to New England's longest running weekly, Energy, while Boston's most famous weekly, Chrome, is still raging every Thursday at Axis, located on Lansdowne St. I hope to see you somewhere. Please just don't say the Palace, that's a fate worse than death.

The DefScribe must leave for now, and bid you adieu. I am recovering from a week of hobnobbing with the rich and famous in Miami's South Beach. Spring Break was good to me this year, as I hope it was for you too. Remember, anyone with information for the wire can send it to Point@fsc.edu or DefScribe@aol.com, all submissions welcome. We're a community people. Lets start acting like one. Help me out and hit me back with the scoop.

AN OPEN MIC? COOL BEANS!

The OpenMike Poetry Reading Series is a dual-venue event, running on the 1st Friday of the month (and occasional other Fridays) at Cool Beans (99 Green St.) in Worcester; and the 3rd Friday of the month at Barnes & Noble in Watertower Plaza (289 N. Main St., Rt. 2 exit 31A), Leominster. Admission is free. Always an open-mic session during which anyone may read. For more information, see the OpenMike Poetry website at www.chezdesiree.com/openmike.

Upcoming Events:

March 30th featuring Shane Koyczan, individual champion at National Poetry Slam 2000. At Cool Beans, Worcester, 8pm, call (508) 752-2326 for directions.

April 6th featuring Tommy Mendez, co-host of the Boston Slam at the Cantab Lounge. At Cool Beans, Worcester, 8pm, call (508) 752-2326 for directions.

April 13th featuring Head-to-Head Slam: Jack McCarthy vs. Adam Stone. At Cool Beans, Worcester, 8pm, call (508) 752-2326 for directions.

April 20th featuring Debra Kang Dean, author of *News of Home* (BOA Editions, 1998). At Barnes & Noble, Leominster, 8pm, call (978) 537-6009 for directions.

May 18th featuring John Hodgen, nationally acclaimed, award-winning poet. At Barnes & Noble, Leominster, 8pm, call (978) 537-6009 for directions.

June 1st featuring Head-to-Head Slam: Tony Brown vs. John Powers. At Cool Beans, Worcester, 8pm, call (508) 752-2326 for directions.

FRATERNITIES - CLUBS SORORITIES

STUDENT GROUPS

Earn \$1,000 - \$2,000 this semester with the easy Campusfundraiser.com three hour fund raising event. No direct sales required. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so call today! Contact campusfundraiser.com at 888 923 3238 or visit campusfundraiser.com

\$10/hr GUARANTEED

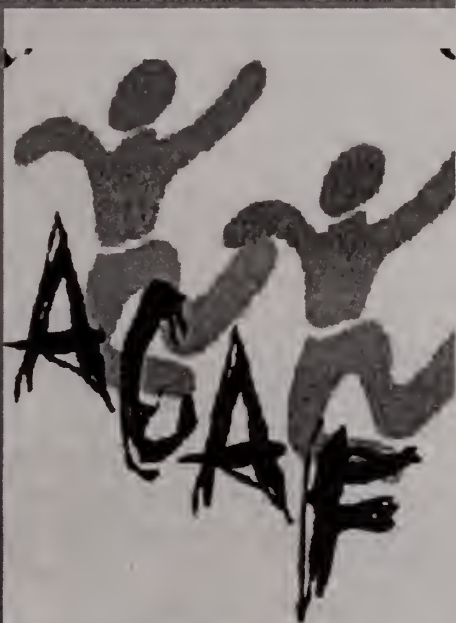
Work on campus F/T or P/T for as little as 5-10 hrs/wk or as many as 40 hrs/wk. Be your own boss. Create your own schedule. Limited positions. Call 1 800 808 7442 x 80

CASTING CALL

The AmeriCulture Arts Festival will hold auditions for its 2002 season of plays on Thursday, April 5, from 6 to 10 p.m., and on Saturday, April 7, from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Conlon Music Building on the corner of North and Ross streets, Fitchburg State College.

Audition slots are 5 minutes each, and will consist of two prepared contemporary monologues, if possible; or cold readings from the script.

The season includes "The Shadow Box" by Michael Cristofer, "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder, "Crimes of the Heart" by Beth Henley, and "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. Call 978-665-3547 or 978-665-3536 to schedule an audition.



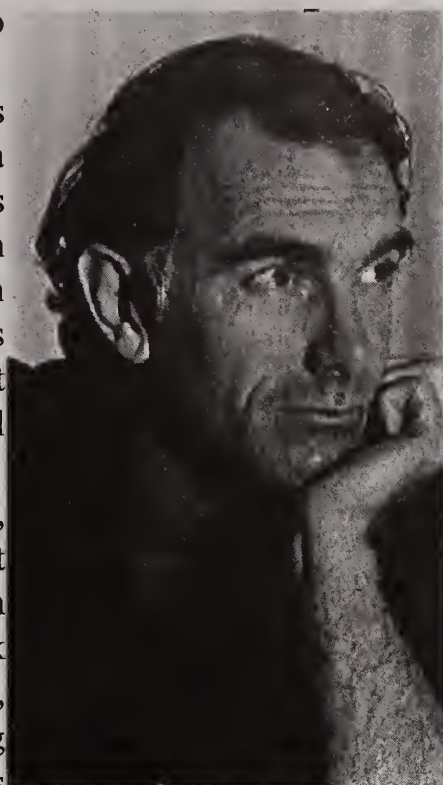
Before The Big Chill...

Return of the Seacaucus 7 to be Screened at FSC

Fitchburg State College's film series concludes with a screening of John Sayle's *Return of the Seacaucus 7* on Thursday, April 5, at 7 p.m. in the Hammond Building's Ellis White Lecture Hall. A short student film, *Plot Fever*, will be shown at 6:45 p.m.

In *Return*, Sayle's first film, Vietnam War protestors meet for a reunion as they approach their 30th birthdays. Jack Kroll (*Newsweek*) noted, "Already Sayle's directing style reflects his writing in its deceptive ease: you feel as if you're eavesdropping on real people in real places with real relationships, talking real talk." The 1980 film won a number of awards, including 1980 Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award, the 1981 Writers Guild of America, and the 1997 National Film Registry Award.

The event is co-sponsored by AVID. George Bohrer, professor of communications/media will lead a discussion following the films. Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students and seniors. For more information, call 978-665-3709 or 978-6653347.



Duck and Cover

SITES

TO

BENHOLD

by Ben Reed

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Continued from page 2

writers who unfortunately wanted to write only fiction. The campus has other resources for fiction: The Miller Hall Folio and Mosaic (nee Scrimshaw).

Now others may wonder where these literary journals have gone to, but I'm sure the epidemic of student apathy or the faculty's inability to get a decent contract and unwillingness to act in an advisory capacity until said contract materializes has nothing at all to do with it.

If, however, by the term "literary works" you meant instead good writing; writing that surpasses the sixth grade reading level the local and national newspapers aim at, then, at the risk of seeming contrary, I will need to correct you again. I most stridently feel that the paper should be a forum for good writing; that there should be standards as to what is acceptable.

Once again I'm forced to ask, isn't FSC, as a "leadership college," a training ground for future leaders? And shouldn't we expect our leaders to be able to communicate with facile ease on any topic presented to them without a cadre of speechwriters, dialog coaches and handlers.....wait a minute, Bush is Thief of State, isn't he. Perhaps you have a point then. (No pun intended.)

Still, I think the "dumbing down" of the paper would be a greater disservice to the students of FSC than taking the chance that they will either know what is being referred to or if not, take enough of an active interest in their own education to get the answers for themselves.

You claim that students cannot relate to the paper, but our last issue featured articles on a student organization, reminders from student services, stories on how students can better manage their money, an interview with a local band and a review of a student-produced play. Or perhaps it is this type content that is considered "dry and boring." What then are we to do in order to satisfy everyone?

In the end, it is my name under the title Editor-in-Chief, and unlike past editors, it is a position I take seriously. If the worst thing that can be said about the paper is that it is now "too smart" for its intended audience, I must confess I don't see how that's a bad thing.

In closing, I will once again repeat the phrase that is on its way to becoming my mantra: If you don't like the paper, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. On this "campus of over 4,000 students" less than a score have actually contributed articles to the paper this semester and less than a dozen work to put it together week after week.

If you don't like the stories that go into The Point, come down to the office and volunteer. Dig up some of this news we seem to be missing out on and write up a story. Think there are too many spelling mistakes in the paper, come on down and Copy Edit an issue or three. Don't like the way the paper looks, come on down and spend every Monday and Tuesday night with me until midnight putting it together.

What's that, Mr. Claffey? Don't have the time? Can't make the commitment? I understand, it is a lot to ask of a person. Well, thanks for keeping in touch.

Looking forward to hearing from you again,

James Sposato
Editor-in-Chief

I'm a hip guy, I know what's hot, and so I thought I'd be extra cool this semester by purchasing my Spring Break plane tickets online. Now that I'm back from my cross-country trip to California I'm ready to tell of my online ticket purchasing experience.

I began checking out airfare 16 days before I intended to leave. Which was mistake number one. It is always better to start your search early. Visit as many airlines as you can. Many of them offer Internet only specials at reduced rates. For starters you can try www.iflyswa.com, (Southwest Airlines), www.nwa.com, (Northwest Airlines), www.continental.com, www.delta.com, www.usair.com, and www.united.com for those respective airlines. Subscribe to their newsletters for even more deals.

I found a few airlines that offered me roundtrip fares of \$230.00-\$300.00 round-trip to San Francisco from Providence. I placed a 24-hour hold on one flight, which as I later learned does not hold the airfare, it only holds a seat on the plane, the price could change, which it did.

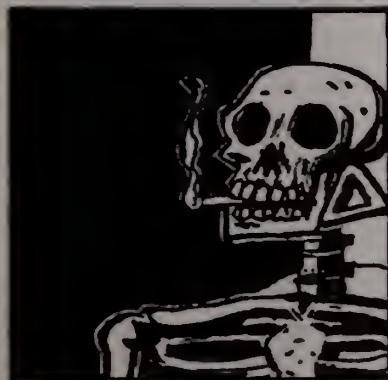
Mistake number two was that I waited too long to buy the tickets. If you do not buy them before 2 weeks to the day you intend to depart the price jumps sky high. I saw a cheap fare 14 days beforehand, placed a hold, but did not buy proceed to buy the ticket until 13 days before my departure. This resulted in a quintupling of the price. In my case the \$230.00 ticket was now \$1300.00. I frantically ran around the Internet looking for something cheaper, my dreams of spring break crushed.

Two travel sites that offer discounted tickets, www.travelocity.com and www.expedia.com, provided me with comparable prices before the 14 day advance, but afterwards they were cheaper but still too expensive at \$500.00-\$700.00 a ticket. As a last resort I went to my friend William Shatner at www.priceline.com

Here's the deal with Priceline.com, I entered my departure and returning dates, a maximum price that I would be willing to pay for a ticket (\$200.00), and my credit card number. In less than 15 minutes I received an answer that my price was accepted (sometimes it is declined) and with tax I paid \$225.00 roundtrip. Not bad with only 11 days till my trip.



Here's the catch, once you enter your credit card number you are committed to whatever ticket Priceline.com finds for you. It is bought before you even know what plane you are on. This could mean a red-eye flight, a flight on a non-jet engine aircraft, and multiple layovers. You also cannot fly stand by or earn frequent flier miles. These tickets are very restrictive, but if you are flexible it might be well worth a try at least once, then you can judge for yourself. It could mean the difference between you staying home or going on a vacation. I saved 84% off of the original ticket price, which meant that I could spend my break in sunny California with money to spend on useless souvenirs, which I did of course.



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nocturnal transmissions:

boobs, baubles and Benicio

by Tess Rhonda Luhrcott

Ah...the Oscars, the annual slaughter on the altar of glamour at the base of Decadence Mountain. A cause for worship for me, an event which must be recognized. For the unenlightened it's like Thanksgiving or the opening of a new Walmart. This year's festivities would include me, Mother, Aunt Sheila, and her pathetic single friend Debra.

Debra is single, although technically she's still only separated from her husband Ed. The divorce proceedings keep getting delayed, because she keeps taking him back in week-long intervals, enough time for her to get a maintenance screw and do his laundry. My Aunt Sheila says Debra is a victim of low self-esteem, and that she would realize Ed's uselessness if she would just enter the electronic age. I think this is why Sheila got me a vibrator for my last birthday. In any case, we all convened at Sheila's house at 7:30 to begin the Oscar ritual with Joan and Melissa Rivers.

You have to love Joan; any woman who has had that much plastic surgery and will readily admit to it. Joan also sells jewelry on QVC, and when you see the dolls they also sell you can almost hear Joan calling her surgeon, "OH, oh...I want the baby doll eyes of Little Miss Snuggles, and the pouty lips of Baby Marmalade." Her spawn, Melissa, recently had Joan a grandchild, a boy named Cooper. I was hoping it would be a girl though, so in twenty years there could be three generations of Rivers women on the red carpet together. Of course, by that time Joan will look more like something out of *Hellraiser*.

Anyway, the four of us settled in with potato skins and nachos, and took in the sights. The modified flapper look was definitely in. Juliette Binoche looked stunning in

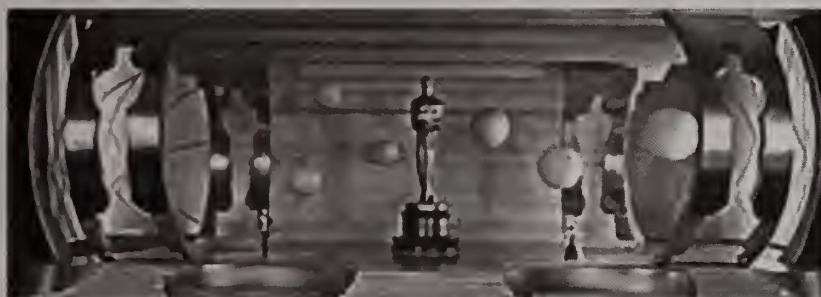
long tangles of pearls and these great fuck-me boots. Ashley Judd tried the same look, but seemed a little too "I'm a pwincess!" Catherine Zeta-Jones looked gorgeous in a sleek black gown, and Michael Douglas didn't look nearly as older than her as he usually does, maybe only fifteen years this time. Seeing Catherine gave me flashbacks to *Traffic*, when she was very pregnant with boobs out to here. I asked Mother if hers got bigger when she had me, and she said they did, but then the left took off like crazy and the right never caught up. She had to wear a falsie for a while.

The show itself began as the pizza arrived. I thought twice, but

box of White Zinfandel. Bjork wore the surely-to-be-infamous swan dress, which you have to see to believe. Renee Zellweger presented in that cute chiffony "is it yellow? is it green?" number, and who can forget Jennifer Lopez nipping out for the whole world to see. Hello! Michelle Yeoh presented with Chow Yun-fat; she was dazzling and he was positively yummy. It's true, I have a thing for Chow Yun-fat. I also have a thing for Ben Affleck, and was he not totally hot as well?

Anyway, after all the tributes, we soon found ourselves in the final hour. Russell Crowe won Best Actor looking rigid, that "God, I need a cigarette" stare burning in his eyes. Julia Roberts won Best Actress, and was charming during her acceptance speech. I don't care what people say about Julia's acting abilities, she is a true movie star, and she was great in *Erin Brockovich*. I just hope she doesn't ever crap out as big as *Sleeping with the Enemy* ever again.

And suddenly, there it was. Best Picture was announced, *Gladiator* won (yawn), Steve Martin said goodnight, and it was over. Another Oscar ritual come to a close, and in record time. Mother and I threw another blanket over Debra (passed out on the couch), kissed my Aunt Sheila goodbye, and drove home. When we got home, I went right to bed. I had this dream. I found myself at the Oscars. It was me in the limousine with the million dollar necklace borrowed from Harry Winston, stepping out onto the red carpet wearing...pasties and a thong?...what?...wait now I'm wearing a sheer black bodysuit, and they can see everything!...wait, it's changing again...OH MY GOD!, I'm dressed like CHER! It all started spinning out of control, and then...I woke up. What caused *that*, the pizza or the box of wine?




Aunt Sheila explained that Oscar night was an automatic non-fat night, you know, like your birthday or the three days around your period. I had two slices while Steve Martin delivered his monologue, and then readied myself for the first awards. Now, when I saw Kate Hudson, I thought to myself, "Honey, when you chose that Country-Western nightmare of a dress, you doomed yourself to lose." And she did. Marcia Gay Harden, who would of thought?

As Best Supporting Actor approached, I considered the whole Benicio thing, which I honestly don't understand. Everyone thinks he is so sexy, even shy Debra started gripping her Corona bottle whenever they flashed a glimpse of him. Once he went up to accept his Oscar, I gave him a good long look. He's a little odd, has those deep-set dark circle eyes. He's a "make-out with at a party if I'm drunk" at best.


The night wore on, and we shifted to Cadbury Mini-eggs and a nice



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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The editorial staff of the Point would like to apologize for the premier of The Wire in the last issue of the journal. It had originally been meant to be published prior to Spring Break but was delayed due to the publishing schedule. This was compounded by improper editing not only on that piece but on the paper as a whole. We apologize to Tha DefScribe and The Renaissance Man for our editorial oversights. We also apologize to the readers of the Point (all three of you) for having to endure such shoddy craftsmanship yet again.

Those responsible have been shot.

tinued from page 2

now,

quit reading this, stand up and take off your pants. That's right. Overthrow the fashion industry tyranny. Throw on a kurta, a kilt or a caftan. Liberate your lingam. Stand up, drop trou and step out into a world of perfect equality. No longer will we have to fumble drunkenly with zippers or those damnable button flies. No longer will we have to be literally confined by societal norms. No longer will we have to worry about who wears the pants in the family. After all, if you free your ass, then your mind will follow.

Only Education can clean this apartment

by Brett Kogan

My fellow housemates, I have heard your concerns and, believe me, I share them. Look around you. What do you see? A sink overflowing with unwashed dishes. Laundry that has gone neglected for several weeks. Dust balls under the couch. Indeed, this once-proud apartment has fallen into a state of abject squalor. To adequately address this situation, serious steps must be taken. It will do no good to employ superficial, stopgap measures. No, we must cut to the very core of the problem if we are to enact lasting change. That is why I maintain that education is the key to cleaning up this apartment.

What good are short-sighted, temporary measures like the proposal to punish those who leave their underwear on the bathroom floor or a plate of chicken bones on top of the TV for three weeks? Such punitive approaches, attractive as they may be to their proponents, are a mere "band-aid" solution, failing to address the root causes of this complex, multi-faceted apartment-cleanliness problem. What we need is not simply to clean up whatever mess we happen to see, but rather to fundamentally change the way we think about garbage itself through sweeping, broad-based educational initiatives.

It is not enough to draw up, as some have advocated, a rotating list of weekly chores, and then post this list on the fridge. Fellow housemates, I ask you: What good is such shallow rhetoric when the very fridge itself is rotten to the core? Education is the only way to ensure that the problem is confronted not just on the surface, but all the way to the decomposing heads of cabbage deep inside.

We must be proactive, not reactive, if we are to one day achieve our eventual goal of building a society in which the prevention of dirty dishes is stressed in our schools in early childhood, not 15 years later when the dishes are already piled high in the sink. Only then can we make strides toward genuine, lasting improvement. The stink, the germs, the lack of usable silverware and drinking glasses—these are all merely symptoms of the real problem. The real "dirt" is not on the dishes themselves, but in the minds of those who would allow them to pile up unchecked.

We need to raise awareness of our apartment's cleaning needs on every level. We must develop a basic core curriculum that focuses not just on our need for someone to run out and buy a toilet-bowl scrubber, but on the reasons why such a toilet-bowl scrubber does not exist in our home now and must in the future.

Without education, we may wipe away that thick layer of grime from the kitchen countertop and stove, but we will never truly wipe away the grime in our hearts and souls that caused such a mess in the first place. To be sure, some of us are messier than others. In fact, it has been argued a number of times in the past that the lion's share of the problem is due to one person, namely me. I admit that these allegations are not without merit. But this is not about pointing fingers, my fellow housemates, about who left that half-eaten Hostess Ding Dong on top of whose VCR. Such infighting and "blame games" cannot have a victor. These are problems we must share equally, for they affect us all.

To confront these problems, one thing is certain: We need education. And to educate ourselves properly, unfortunately, the reality is that we will need money. A great deal of money. I have no doubt that some of you will resist such a notion, but who can put a price tag on cleanliness? It is vital that we view this money not as one housemate "scamming" or "ripping off" the others—allegations with which we are familiar from past incidents—but rather, as a priceless investment in our collective future.

With that money, of course, will come the great responsibility of seeing to it that it is spent wisely on educational initiatives that lead to



greater cleanliness for all of us. Therefore, someone is clearly needed to oversee this important investment in our future. And since it needs to be someone with a thorough understanding of the full scope of cleanliness issues facing the apartment, I nominate myself.

With your support, I am confident I can foster an environment in which all of us, not just some, live cleaner domestic lives. It's going to require everyone to pull together, but I know that if we allocate enough energy and resources to this cause, it can happen. It may take a long time. It may not even happen in our lifetimes. But remember, lasting change never happens overnight. So please pledge generously for my proposed housemate-based cleanliness-education initiative. Nothing less than the eventual cleaning of this apartment is at stake.

[Blatently stolen from The Onion
(www.theonion.com)]

THE POINT'S GREAT 21ST CENTURY HEMI-DEMI-SEMI-ANNUAL ALL STAR SPORTS TRIVIA CONTEST

So you think you know it all do you? Well now is your chance to see just how smart you are when it comes to sports. The Point and Sports Editor Shaun Moriarty are giving you a chance to get a pair of Red Sox tickets! Answering a few questions correctly is easy and a whole lot cheaper than the Sox ticket office. Each question is worth a certain number of points, a correct answer to the question scores that many points. The maximum number of points is 55. Whoever gets the most points wins the tickets. The second place winner will get a gift certificate to Outdoor Endeavors on John Fitch H'way. Ties will be decided by a random drawing. The tix are good for an upcoming game in historic Fenway Park. Speaking of Fenway, here's question number one:

1. What year did Fenway Park first open? (1 point)

- A) 1912
- B) 1901
- C) 1918
- D) 1914

2. Who was the last NHL player to play without wearing a helmet? (4 points)

- A) Jari Kurri
- B) Marcel Dionne
- C) Tim Taylor
- D) Craig MacTavish

3. What NFL player holds the all-time career record for passing efficiency? (3 pts)

- A) Randall Cunningham
- B) Steve Young
- C) Jim Kelly
- D) Bart Starr

4. What golfer has won 6 Master's Tournaments, a PGA record? (2 pts)

- A) Ben Hogan
- B) Jack Nicklaus
- C) Tiger Woods
- D) Phil Mickelson

5. This pitcher holds the all-time record for the most innings pitched in the World Series with 146 innings, who is he? (2 pts)

- A) Whitey Ford
- B) Smokey Joe Wood
- C) Dave Stieb
- D) Warren Spahn

6. Who did Cassius Clay upset to win the Heavyweight Title on February 25, 1964? (2 pt)

- A) George Foreman
- B) Muhammad Ali
- C) Sonny Liston
- D) Ken Norton

7. What team hasn't won a World Series since 1908? (1 pt)

- A) Chicago Cubs
- B) Cleveland Indians
- C) Boston Red Sox
- D) Chicago White Sox

8. What tennis player is Roy Emerson tied with for most men's Grand Slam singles titles with 12? (2 pts)

- A) Arthur Ashe
- B) Pete Sampras
- C) Boris Becker
- D) Andre Agassi

9. What pro baseball player appeared on the cover of the first Sports Illustrated magazine? (3 pts)

- A) Cy Young
- B) Eddie Joost
- C) Babe Ruth
- D) Eddie Mathews

10. Who led the 1989 Boston Red Sox in homeruns with 30? (2 pts)

- A) Mo Vaughn
- B) Ellis Burks
- C) Nick Esasky
- D) Jim Rice

11. In NASCAR's modern era, only two drivers have led every lap of a race. One of them is: (5 pts)

- A) Richard Petty
- B) Dale Earnhardt
- C) Jeff Burton
- D) Bobby Allison

12. What man holds the record for most rebounds in an NBA game?(3 pts)

- A) Nate Thurmond
- B) Wilt Chamberlain
- C) Bill Russell
- D) Dennis Rodman

13. Who is the only baseball player to have ever won the MVP and the Rookie of the Year award in the same year? (2 pts)

- A) Ted Williams
- B) Babe Ruth
- C) Fred Lynn
- D) Walt Dropo

14. How many Moriarty's have played in the MLB (Major League Baseball)? Please note, there was a Gene Moriarity but he is not counted due to the extra "I" in his name. (5 pts)

- A) None
- B) One
- C) Two
- D) Three

15. Which man has won the most consecutive sanctioned competitions in any one track and field event? (4 pts)

- A) Sergei Bubka
- B) Jesse Owens
- C) Edwin Moses
- D) Carl Lewis

16. Which country has won the most world cup soccer titles? (3 pts)

- A) Argentina
- B) Germany
- C) Italy
- D) Brazil

17. Which boxing heavyweight is the only man to finish his profes-

sional career without a loss?(4 pts)

- A) Muhammad Ali
- B) Rocky Marciano
- C) Joe Louis
- D) Jack Johnson

18. Where is former New England Patriots head coach Pete Carroll now? (2 pts)

- A) Head coach at USC
- B) Head coach right here at Fitchburg State College
- C) A coach with the Seattle Seahawks
- D) Head coach of the XFL's Memphis Maniax

19. Which men's college basketball coach holds the record for most career victories? (2 pts)

- A) Bobby Knight
- B) Adolph Rupp
- C) John Wooden
- D) Dean Smith

20. Nolan Ryan has thrown seven professional baseball no-hitters. The next most thrown by any other pitcher is:(3 pts)

- A) 2
- B) 3
- C) 4
- D) 5

Circle your responses on this page then cut, tear or bite it off, fill out the information below and send it to The Point campus mail box 6705. Entries can also be dropped off at the Point office located in the basement of the Hammond Building. Entries must be received by Friday April 13th. Incomplete entries will be disqualified.

NAME _____

CAMPUS MAIL _____

CAMPUS PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____